

**From:** Ron LaPedis  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/14/02 1:23pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

It it please the court,

I would like to commend the 9 dissenting states for not accepting the proposed DOJ settlement with Microsoft. I believe that it has been shown time and time again, that Microsoft 'extends and extinguishes.' That is, while appearing to support a standard, such as Java or Kerberos, they then add extensions to it that will only run on the Microsoft operating system (OS) platform.

When threatened by Netscape, which sold a browser which allowed web pages to be displayed on any platform, they developed their own browser and tightly integrated it into the OS then bundled it free of charge. Coupled with web pages that used coding which would only work on the Microsoft browser, they took over the market, effectively eliminating Netscape as a viable company. And this was AFTER a consent decree with the DOJ in an earlier case!

With Windows XP, Microsoft is attempting to take over access to the Internet, forcing users to use their middleware and go to Microsoft approved sites when a URL (web address) is mistyped. Microsoft MUST be reigned in as a convicted monopolist, or there will be no choice whatever left for consumers.

The settlement worked out for dismissal of the class action cases alleging overcharging by Microsoft shows Microsoft's arrogance and contempt for the law. This settlement would have helped Microsoft crush Apple in the education market where Apple is still a competitor. Since when is the loser of a case allowed to settle in a manner which benefits it. Better that Microsoft be forced to distribute coupons for free software to the customers it allegedly overcharged. But I digress here.

I sincerely hope that you will work with the dissenting state attorneys general to create a settlement with teeth in it which will prevent Microsoft from crushing the competition through illegal practices, of which it has already been convicted .

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